

10 Cents.

Barring "accidents," libel suits, orders-in-council, sickness, financial difficulties or other factors beyond our control, the next issue of *The Rebel* will appear May 28th. Let us have your criticisms, suggestions, advice and subscriptions early, so that we may have a true picture of public sentiment in regard to our efforts.

THE REBEL

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426 - 15th Street N.W., Calgary, Alberta

"INDEPENDENT ALWAYS—NEUTRAL NEVER"

REBELETTES

Voltaire: "I wholly disapprove of what you say, but I will defend with my life your right to say it."

Aberhart: "Mistakes under the direction of God are not mistakes, but stepping stones to success." If he is under divine guidance, as he claims, our premier should be grateful to The Rebel for drawing attention to the wonderful progress he has been making by his mistakes.

Anthony Eden: "No policy can succeed in a free country if it is in conflict with the moral standards of the people." That is why immoral Aberhartism is crashing.

The Consort Enterprise suggests that it is a mistake for the insurgent members to forget that they would not be in the legislature but for the grace of Aberhart, and Mrs. Gostick, M.L.A., rubs it in by saying that many of them would be on relief if Aberhart had not made them into M.L.A.s. No doubt the humiliating truth has made many an insurgent member sick at the stomach. "You made me what I am!"

Rev. Roy Taylor, M.L.A. (S.C.), who as a minister of the Gospel should have some regard for the truth, is reported to have stated at Pincher Creek that "there are no social credit experts in existence," and that none were required in Alberta. Yet his party is spending thousands of dollars searching the world for experts. How these Aberhartians agree among themselves!

"We do need Douglas," says Aberhart now that he has been forced to try to get him. No doubt he means this just as "sincerely" as when he declared nearly two years ago that Douglas was NOT needed.

We'll bet a nickel or something that those parents who in the flush of Aberhartmania had their baby boys christened "William Aberhart" will hereafter wait until their "hero" is dead before naming their children after him. And pity the poor boys when they grow up!

Speaking of bets, we recently collected ten cents from the daughter of a S.C. member of the legislature with whom we had wagered that amount in 1935 against six months' dividends if paid within 18 months.

The latest Hitler stunt by Aberhart is the unceremonious firing of Mr. Chant from the ministry of agriculture. The remaining members of the Cabinet must be a pack of cowards to put up with anti-British tactics of that sort without public protest.

COMING ARTICLES

Issue of May 28: "Is Aberhart Insincere or Insane?" and "Aberhart the Lawbreaker."

WHO VIOLATED HIS OATH?—(Continued from Page One)—

We have therefore two serious charges levelled against each other by two men whose exalted positions require that their utterances be accorded serious consideration. Neither charge is to be disposed of lightly, for if either or both are based on fact, then either Mr. Aberhart or Mr. Cockroft, or both, have committed an offense or offenses of such a grave nature as to demand drastic action.

The opening words of the oath of secrecy taken by a cabinet minister are: "You (name) do solemnly promise and swear that you will serve His Majesty truly and faithfully. . . . Now, regardless of whether Mr. Cockroft violated his oath, if his charge is true, is it not equally true that Mr. Aberhart broke his oath to serve His Majesty 'truly and faithfully,' when, in secret council, he sought to misuse public trust funds?"

The oath also says: "You will in all things to be moved, treated and debated in any such Executive Council, faithfully, honestly and truly declare your mind and opinion to the honour and benefit of the King's Majesty and the good of His Subjects without partiality or exception of Persons, IN NOWISE FORBEARING SO TO DO from any manner of respect, favor, love, meed, displeasure, or dread OF ANY PERSON OR PERSONS WHATSOEVER."

It seems to us that the oath itself as it stands predicates nullification of the obligation to secrecy under circumstances where the major intent of the oath as a whole is violated. Surely, if justice, honor and truth are to be the guiding principles of His Majesty's Executive Councilors, no oath of secrecy can bind any honorable person to condone INTENTION TO COMMIT A CRIMINAL OFFENSE, such as Mr. Cockroft has charged against Mr. Aberhart in his accusation that the Premier had "attempted to misuse public trust funds."

The matter is of such grave import that the first act of the legislature on June 7 should be to make full investigation into both charges and to see to it that impartial justice is meted out.

"GOD WILL NOT BLESS TRICKERY"

In a recent radio address, Premier Aberhart likened his opponents to the sorcerers who attempted to shake the faith of the Israelites by imitating, with trickery, the wonders performed by Moses under the direction of God. It seems to us that in the light of the fizzle Mr. Aberhart has made of his endeavors to conjure something out of nothing by his special brand of magic, it would be more in harmony with the facts if he were to openly acknowledge that the charge of trickery is applicable to him rather than to his opponents.

"God will not bless us," he said, "if we have in our schemes trickery and deceit. We must put all our cards on the table." Ye gods and little fishes! Aberhart knows that most of the criticism directed against him, not only by his opponents, but by many of his own followers, has been on the score that his "schemes" have been full of "trickery and deceit." As for placing his cards on the table, his boast until now has been that of not showing the strength of his "hand" to his "enemies," and certainly every "card" he has played so far has been a Joker.

MAKING A MARTYR OF HIM?

One of the criticisms offered by friends who are also opposed to Aberhart is that our hard-hitting method of opposition will have the effect of "making a martyr" of Aberhart and would only serve to unite his followers more closely.

We appreciate the sincerity of the criticism, but question its soundness. We cannot forget that when, years ago, we pointed to Aberhart as a potential menace, many of our friends regarded him as a harmless joke. Developments have substantiated the soundness of our judgment in the past, and we have yet to be shown any good evidence whatsoever that our analysis of the situation now is not also more accurate than that of those who would have us "lay-off."

When The Rebel has finished with Aberhart, he will be anything but a martyr. His days of posing and shamming are now drawing to an inglorious close. As for driving support to his side, we credit the public with more intelligence. In any event, it is time to stop pussy-footing as though we were dealing with 13-year-old children; and if there are those who would still support Aberhart blindly despite the proof of his unfitnes, "laying off" from criticism of their leader would not open their eyes nor lessen their misery. The time has arrived for a positive show-down in a situation intolerable no less for supporters than opponents of the government.

ABERHART'S REPUTATION

In a recent broadcast Premier Aberhart in self-righteously declaring that he would make no reply to an alleged "scurrilous attack" made upon him, asked whether he, who had lived in Calgary for 27 years, must "defend his reputation." It was, of course, just one of his tricks to divert attention from his public misconduct and direct it to himself as sympathy and adulation—and how he loves flattery!

"I understand," he said, "that the man who made this scurrilous attack is not of a very high character."

If Mr. Aberhart was the innocent victim of a scurrilous attack by a man of low character, he should either refrain from mentioning the matter at all, or state the nature of the attack and name the assailant. Otherwise, there may be a fight amongst the numerous Aberhart detractors for the honor of responsibility for the attack, and his supporters, also, will be puzzled as to against whom to direct their venom for this dastardly act.

Who made this "scurrilous attack" upon the spotless reputation of our worthy premier? Was it Cockroft, who charged him with attempt to misuse public trust funds? Was it Bedard and McCaffery, who accused him of lying and double-crossing? Was it Bourcier, Blue, Dr. Brown, Chant, or some other prominent Social Crediter? Or did our dear Premier perchance have reference to the Rebel's First Epistle to the Aberhartians? In any case, the Premier's failure to specify the nature of the attack and to name the culprit can only add still further to his reputation as a moral coward.

WHY NOT SUE THE REBEL?

Immediately following appearance of the first issue of The Rebel, the rumor spread throughout the city that Premier Aberhart had arranged to institute libel action against us. It was stated that he had interviewed two prominent lawyers in the matter. One of the immediate results was that certain news dealers stopped selling our great family journal out of fear of being prosecuted by Herr Aberhart.

Mr. Aberhart has taken no action; and while he has not let us in on the "secret" of his failure to do so, if such was his intention, our guess is that he lacks the required amount of intestinal fortitude necessary to meet us in the open under circumstances and conditions where he would have to "put up or shut up."

(Continued on Page Three)

WHY NOT SUE THE REBEL?—(Continued from Page Two)—

No one knows better nor has a deeper appreciation of the seriousness of what we are saying about Aberhart's public misconduct. Stern action should be taken against anyone who would maliciously attack any citizen, especially the head of a government; and if we have done wrong, WE ourselves ask, we DEMAND, that in the interests of justice the full force of the law be visited upon us. We want no favors from Mr. Aberhart, and if he honestly considers that we have done him an injustice, he owes it not only to himself but to the people of Alberta to vindicate the honor of the Premier by taking appropriate action against us. Let him put us right in regard to any or all of the serious allegations we have made against him, and we shall gladly offer our humble apologies; or if we have broken any statute of the land, let him invoke the law to punish us.

And lest Mr. Aberhart should hesitate to face us in a court of law out of fear of having his private sins aired in public, we offer him the assurance—and he may use this declaration for his protection in court—that we would not permit our solicitor to question him in regard to his purely personal affairs, but only in respect of his public utterances and public conduct. On the other hand, we would not ask this protection for ourselves. If he so desired, Mr. Aberhart could have the advantage of exposing our private character to public view, and we assure him that in it there are many slips which we would blush to parade in public. Could we be more fair?

HOW HE FOOLS THEM

One of the chief reasons why Aberhart gained the support of so many people lies in the manner in which, Sunday after Sunday for years, he has been playing upon their emotions by twisting Holy Scripture to further his special designs. His so-called sermons from the Prophetic Bible Institute in Calgary and latterly from the Strand Theatre in Edmonton, are invariably a diabolically clever concoction of religion, truth, half-truths, politics, slander, innuendo, etc., the whole mess obviously designed to befuddle the minds of the people and to induce a blind, unreasoning faith in trusting souls who in their goodness of heart cannot believe that any honorable man in his right mind would deliberately stoop so low as to use the Word of God for such fiendish purposes, or else so selfish and callous themselves as to see in Aberhart the perfect instrument for satisfying their cupidity and greed. Mr. Aberhart's "sermon" of April 25 in Calgary provided excellent illustrations of his tactics, as we shall endeavor to demonstrate by a brief review of some of his utterances.

In his opening remarks Mr. Aberhart said that for some time "we have been praying in regard to the weather . . . and now God has graciously sent moisture." Was not the inference that moisture had been sent in direct response to his prayer?

Referring to criticisms directed against him, but failing to mention of what or whom he was speaking, he quoted Scripture: "Bless them that curse you," etc., and said that "nothing can be gained by this constant slandering and fighting each other." How true and commendable in itself! But are we to understand that Mr. Aberhart also applies these splendid enjoinders to himself? Can we forget that he himself has been the worst offender in this regard? Has any person ever before equalled the volume and ferocity of Aberhart's villification and slandering? Have you forgotten how he was wont to bellow and roar in violent rage over opponents to whom he referred as "rats, sons of Satan, liars, reprobates, fornicators," etc.? In those days he was singularly lacking the spirit of magnanimity he now professes to harbor. He did not hesitate to use the vilest terms to abuse an opponent, nor the foulest innuendo to discredit his character and hold him up to public ridicule.

"This is business, not sentimentality," he declared solemnly in warning his followers not to be stampeded by the accusations of the opposition. And then he immediately called for the singing of a sentimental hymn, "dedicating" it to someone who had died 18 years ago. Can any sane person swallow such brazen hypocrisy without turning sick? Has not his entire campaign been chiefly one of silly, senseless sentimentality?

"God rules and works His purposes. So do not murmur. If God is in it, it will be alright." What a nem! Did not God rule when the former government was in power? If so, why did not Mr. Aberhart keep his mouth shut instead of urging all and sundry to "murmur"? Are we to believe that the Almighty is "in" the vile trickery, deceit and dishonesty practised by Mr. Aberhart?

"MISTAKES NOT MISTAKES"

The height of religious buffoonery was reached when Mr. Aberhart spoke on the passage of the Israelites to the Promised Land. Do you recall how in his reference to the Israelites' approach to the crossing point of the sea at a place where escape seemed thwarted by mountains on one side and the sea on the other, he said that undoubtedly the leader of the enemy in pursuit of the tribe chuckled with glee at the Israelites' apparent stupidity of walking "right into my mitt." What an expression from a pulpit! But that is a mere aside. The real absurdity was to follow. "No doubt," said Mr. Aberhart, "if there had been newspapers in those days they would have told Moses that he was mistaken in his tactics. But there were no newspapers, so the people were not confused." From this exploit of Moses, Mr. Aberhart drew the conclusion that "the mistakes of men under the guidance of God are not mistakes, but stepping stones to success."

"KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT"

That he meant by this to justify his own sorry blunderings was evident in his inferential comparison of himself with Moses. "The Lord shall fight for you," he quoted from the Bible, "and ye shall hold your peace;"—"You must KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT! Israel was there by God's command, and held their peace. If WE are there by God's command, you need never fear." The inference was all too clear. Aberhart is to be regarded as the chosen one of God, divinely appointed to lead suffering Albertans from the bondage of the Fifty Big Shots to the Promised Land of Something for Nothing; and this wonder can only be performed if the people are sufficiently idiotic to KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT. There must be no murmuring, no grumbling, no criticism. Aberhart must be allowed to blunder on, doing all the talking, all the thinking for everyone. As for his mistakes, well, is he not the divinely-inspired saviour of Alberta? His mistakes are therefore NOT mistakes, but "stepping stones to success."

How much longer will the people of Alberta put up with this miserable shyster at the head of their government? Are they so deficient in intelligence that they cannot discern the obvious insincerity and glaring dishonesty of this man? Is their moral standard so low that they cannot recognize the gross public immorality of this man who is so lacking in common decency that he flagrantly prostitutes Holy Scripture for partizan politics? Are they so dead to their conception of duty as citizens of a free country that they will continue to tolerate this fiendish menace to their freedom? Are YOU going to KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT in the presence of the threat seeking to deprive all of us of the priceless heritage of liberty and justice bought at so great a price?

The Rebel believes that the people are not only going to refuse to KEEP THEIR MOUTHS SHUT, but that they are actually going to DO something in the very near future to end this nightmare of Aberhartism, by hurling its author into the deepest pit of humiliation and disgrace ever prepared BY HIMSELF by any man in Canadian history.

TO PREMIER ABERHART

In our first issue of The Rebel we gave not only definite intimation as to what we think of your public conduct and what we believe essential to the restoration of soundness and sanity in the carrying on of public business, but we also invited you to save whatever measure of dignity and self-respect you may still possess by making an open confession of your iniquitous deception of the good people of Alberta and by resigning from the premiership.

You have chosen to ignore us, or, at any rate, to pretend to do so. That is your privilege. It is our privilege to decline acceptance of your wilful disregard of our contentions as adequate disposition of the issue we have raised; and it is now our intention to press this issue with the view to forcing your recognition of it in a manner commensurate with its nature.

It is your privilege to wrap yourself in your mantle of pious hypocrisy and with your hand on the Bible and eyes toward heaven to bleat of your injured innocence. It is our privilege to tear your mantle of deception to shreds, to snatch your self-imposed halo of professed Godliness from your sanctimonious brow and to cast it into the gutter from whence it came.

It is your privilege to pose as a divinely-inspired man of God. It is our privilege to strip you of your sheep's clothing and to indicate the source of your inspiration as the pit of hell itself.

It is your privilege to advocate boycotting of your political opponents, to malign their private characters, to urge suppression of free speech and to rob the people of their rights by tampering with the courts of justice. It is our privilege to denounce the boycott as an anti-Christian, anti-British weapon of the lowest type of moral coward. It is our privilege to resent your attacks on private characters as morally criminal. It is our privilege and duty to fight for freedom of speech and for unhampered justice in our courts.

We would remind you again that our quarrel is not with you personally in your capacity as a private citizen. Our fight is personal only in the sense and to the extent in which you personify the evils which we hope to eradicate. We have not the slightest interest in your private conduct, which may be above reproach. But your PUBLIC conduct is PUBLIC BUSINESS; and as we regard your public conduct as a shameful and cowardly assault upon the social, moral, spiritual and economic welfare of the country, we are going to fight you just as the serious menace you are to the principles of liberty and justice, which good citizens prize more highly than life itself.

We know that in fighting you we are honoring you by fighting a dishonorable coward. You are "yellow." You have not the backbone to fight back in an honorable manner, and we shall fully expect your defense against our attacks to be in the form of cowardly sniping from the ambush of your political pulpit, from behind the camouflage of which you hurl your poison darts of slander, innuendo and ridicule. We are prepared to grant you this advantage. For our part, we shall fight you openly, defiantly, with the sword of the spirit of truth. There is no doubt as to the final outcome. The people are no longer deceived by your hypocrisy and pretense. Public opinion will force you to come out from behind your smokescreen; and when that day comes, as it will come in the near future, Alberta will write Finis to the most disgraceful chapter in its history, and by the grace of God will commence a new chapter of honesty and decency in the conduct of its public affairs.

THE TRUTH FROM HERBERT

Speaking in Calgary recently, W. R. Herbert, new head of the Calgary Constituency Association of the Alberta Social Credit League, is reported in The Albertan to have declared: "Social Credit is the middle path between communism and fascism; each have merits, but neither is the kind of government we want or would put up with."

The Rebel suggests that so far the only "merits" the Alberta brand of Social Credit has considered worthy of adopting from communism and fascism are the worst features of these two foreign and anti-British concepts of government, such as the boycott, threats, intimidation, suppression of speech, interference with the courts of justice, and other equally obnoxious precepts and practices. We defy Mr. Herbert or any other so-called social creditor to point to the introduction of even ONE good idea or practice into current Alberta politics which was not there in far greater measure before the present set of ruthless gangsters insinuated itself into office by deception and bribery.

Mr. Herbert also said: "There never was anybody a 100 per cent. right or a 100 per cent. wrong." This evidence of returning sanity is most encouraging. But what a contrast to the blatant ravings of Mr. Aberhart from his pulpit that social credit is "the ONLY remedy, absolutely guaranteed." Just as soon as the proponents of social credit come to the realization that theirs is but ONE OF MANY political theories, that like the others, it is the product of fallible human minds and not necessarily the "Economy of God," as Aberhart has declared, and just as soon as they are prepared to present it for discussion upon its merits, then they may hope to get somewhere. But so long as they try to force it down the people's throats by intolerance, threats, boycott, etc., and so long as the arch-hypocrite Aberhart is at the head of the movement, they will get nowhere with it, regardless of how perfect their theory may be.

THE "BUTTERS-IN"

Under date of April 26, The Albertan carries an editorial with the above caption in which objection is voiced to "the flood of low-grade journalism lately released and professing to be friendly to the insurgents." Amongst other things, The Albertan says: "It is strange that some of the most ill-flavored of the venom should be directed at Mr. Aberhart personally and against his motives, nature, character, honesty—almost everything except his policy. . . . Nor are all the charges now whispered concerning him connected with his premiership."

As The Rebel certainly does not profess to be "friendly to the insurgents," we have no right to conclude that The Albertan was making reference to us. Neither can it be said truthfully that we have directed any "ill-flavored venom" at Mr. Aberhart's "personal motives, nature, character and honesty." However, we must face the fact that our first issue was construed as a personal attack on Mr. Aberhart, and in order to avoid misunderstanding, The Albertan should be specific in its accusations. It should name the publications it has in mind and point out exactly wherein they have offended.

Insofar as The Rebel is concerned, we give the positive assurance that we have not the slightest intention of making any attacks upon Mr. Aberhart's private character or conduct. That is the Aberhart method of fighting; and if The Albertan is really sincere in its condemnation of such tactics, it should give voice to the indignation it should feel over the despicable attacks upon private character made at various times by Mr. Aberhart. Our purpose is to tear the camouflage of religious hocus-pocus, the hypocrisy, deception, lying and slandering from the PUBLIC utterances and PUBLIC conduct of Mr. Aberhart; and if in the carrying out of this purpose we should happen to err, as we may, we shall be glad to receive correction from The Albertan or any other source.

SOCK HIM, REBEL!

Dear Rebel: I am thankful that you have the courage to tell the plain, unvarnished truth about this man Aberhart, who profanes the Name of the Most High and drags righteousness in the gutter. The effrontery of this egotistical braggart comparing himself with Moses, Elijah, Luther and Lincoln! He really must think we are only thirteen years old mentally. His lying, trickery and sidestepping are so apparent, Albertans may well examine themselves mentally, if they fall for it. The pulpit is an excellent coward's castle for this kind of parasite; he is safe from debate there. His "tactiturnity"—a perfect defence for one who knows nothing and does nothing. Albertans may well beware of taciturn cowards who ignore and resent criticism.

What kind of secrecy is imposed upon Alberta cabinet ministers? Must they aid and abet political skullduggery when a gangster premier dares to suggest that the laws of common honesty and decency be broken? God forbid that Albertans should have sunk so low. Tear his secret political veil to shreds. Shine the light of publicity and truth upon it. Make it possible for a man to face his neighbor once more with a smile, a kindly feeling free from bitterness, free from the threat of boycott and intimidation, the seeds of hatred and discord sown by this would-be Prussian dictator—the wedge that is bursting this fair province apart. Make him talk to the point, and not around it.

—Anti-Abie, Calgary. (Thanks for the fine cartoons.—Ed.)

KNOCKS AND BOOSTS

It is not possible to publish all of the many letters of commendation received following our radio talk and appearance of the first issue of The Rebel. The best we can do is to quote briefly from some of them. Incidentally, we want to hear from many more as to what they think of our efforts, so let us have your comment, for or against. No names will be published unless permission is granted to do so.

Medicine Hat: "The Rebel is the truth from beginning to end."

Hay Lake: "Wishing you success in your endeavors to show up Aberhartism."

Hubalta: "One Veteran to another; I am with you whichever way you go."

Naco: "Heard your broadcast. Breathing was quite difficult for some time after. Keep up the good work."

Calgary: "I am pushing your paper and hope you succeed in exposing Aberhart so that he can never hold his head up again."

Didsbury: "My hat off to you for standing up for the truth and the nerve to publish it."

Medicine Hat (former Mayor): "You are putting into print what thousands of us have been thinking but have not had the courage to say except in whispers."

Mossleigh: "More power to your arm."

Consort: "No doubt the charge will be made that you are the tool of the financial interests."

Edmonton: "Congratulations on the stand you are taking against this man Aberhart and his methods to deceive the people."

Banff: "May your shadow never grow less."

Drumheller: "If you succeed in drawing Aberhart into the open, you will have achieved something worth while." Another: "I used to think they were misguided fools—but now just plain rogues."

Knee Hill Valley: "It is time the people of Alberta woke up to the idol they are worshipping. Every success!"

Eckville (J.P. and former Regimental Sergeant Major): "Rebel, I am right with you. Led the boys through the mud of Paaschendale . . . and . . ."

Calgary: "I hope you succeed in driving out the worst imposter this country has ever seen. You are doing a real service to every decent citizen. More power to your arm."

Craigville: "It is nearly time something was done to stop this Hitler."

We are deeply grateful to all who wrote in to encourage us and to the scores who commended our stand by phone and personal conversation. The response was such that we have no alternative but to carry on.

Of written adverse criticism there was only one—from some nitwit at Barons who did not sign his name.

The only other direct criticism came by phone from a man purporting to represent "fifty business men on Eighth Avenue." He promised that legal action would be taken against us at once. He cursed us for allegedly being a "dirty Jew and a Communist." He seemed quite put out when we informed him that we did not have the honor of being a Jew, and that if we were a Communist we would be supporting Aberhart, as Communists are doing publicly. Needless to say, he also lacked the backbone to give his name.

So, can you wonder that we feel mightily encouraged to continue in the exposure of Herr Racketeer Aberhart?

SUBSCRIPTION FORM

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THE REBEL

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